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HMD's  
Featured  
Employee

1

P2 in the Tex-  
tile Cleaning  
Industry

2

2005 Biennial  
Reporting

3

UST Plan  
Check  
Requirements

4

HMD is Going  
Paperless

5

Tier II  
Reporting in  
San Diego  
County

6

The Christmas  
Train

8

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COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (DEH)  
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION (HMD)

# ENVIRONMENTAL PRESS



*"Environmental and  
Public Health  
through leadership,  
partnership and  
science"*

## CHIEF's NOTES

By Michael Dorsey,  
HMD Chief



Water resources are important to San Diego County residents for recreational purposes and to supply drinking water. All of the major drainage basins within the San Diego regional basin contain groundwater sources. Preventing contamination of this valuable resource is a key role of the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health's (DEH) Hazardous Materials Division (HMD).

Historically, underground storage tanks (USTs) containing gasoline and diesel have been sources of groundwater and soil contamination. The California legislature has created laws to ensure that USTs are operating in a manner that prevents them from leaking and contaminating the environment. The State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) has developed regulations to support these laws. As the delegated Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) for the County of San Diego, HMD is responsible for ensuring that UST facilities are in compliance with these laws and regulations.

In response to a number of new UST laws, in September of 2001, the HMD created a compliance group within the division with the responsibility of inspecting annually all the retail UST sites. In September 2002, the HMD developed a performance measure to ensure that significantly non-complaint USTs were appropriately upgraded or closed. HMD used 2001 as a baseline and identified 395 UST sites as being significantly out of compliance. Since 2001, HMD has taken an aggressive enforcement approach to bringing significantly non-compliant UST sites into compliance and ensuring that all USTs maintain an acceptable level of compliance. As a result of HMD's aggressive enforcement approach we have reduced the original number of significantly non-compliant USTs sites from 395 in September 2001 to 17 as of December 2005.

HMD, with the assistance of the San Diego County District Attorney's Office, the City of San Diego Attorney's Office, and the San Diego County Office of County Counsel, has settled two landmark UST cases. In September 2003 a civil lawsuit was filed against BP West Coast Products LLC (British Petroleum) in which 114 ARCO stations in San Diego County failed to maintain their leak detection equipment on their USTs resulting in a \$4 million settlement. In October of 2005 a civil lawsuit was filed against Equilon Enterprises, LLC in which 62 Shell Oil stations in San Diego County failed to maintain leak detection equipment on their USTs, resulting in a \$10.75 million settlement.

## HMD's FEATURED EMPLOYEE



**MICHAEL VIZZIER**

Mike Vizzier is the Supervisor for the Central Unified Program Compliance Group and although he's a San Diegan now, his first 12 years were more like Tom Sawyer's life than a contemporary child's life in San Diego.

Mike remembers with delight that shoes and shirts were only required for supper on summer days and that he and his brother could wander around as far as their bicycles and feet could take them. There were a few exceptions though. A suit was required for church and much worse was required for a pageant called the "Confederate Ball."

Interrupting baseball, football, swimming, fishing and playing in the woods for ballroom dance lessons was an excruciating torture. Instruction in his two-room elementary school started in mid-August to make up for the two weeks students took off in late September for cotton picking. Life was simple and full of discovery.

When Mike was 12, his family moved to Alabama where his Dad designed parts for the Saturn V missile.

(continued on page 7)

## P2 in the Textile Cleaning Industry

By Ellen Schulte  
Env. Health Specialist III



A few years back, taking your clothes to the cleaners really meant "Dry Cleaning" and typically the use of perchloroethylene (Perc) as the cleaning solvent. Serious health and environmental problems are associated with the use of Perc, as it is a suspect carcinogen. Perc is persistent in the environment, as it does not break down easily and it can permeate through concrete (cracks) causing soil and groundwater contamination that is difficult to remediate. In fact, it is very difficult to start new Perc dry cleaning operations because of this potential contamination concern. Perc not only affects land, water and worker safety, it is also a serious air pollutant. Recently, dry cleaners still using Perc were given a finite number of years to operate in the Los Angeles area basin because of strict air district rules and the San Francisco Bay Area followed suit to phase out Perc dry cleaning altogether. Under CA State Assembly Bill 998, the State Air Resources Board has placed a fee on each gallon of Perc purchased. These funds will be used to offer grants to businesses so they can switch to less-toxic alternatives, thus providing the impetus for the groundswell of new textile cleaning options.

The following is a list of textile cleaning alternatives and general

application information compiled by the Institute for Research and Technical Assistance (IRTA) as part of a California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) project: Evaluation of New and Emerging Technologies for Textile Cleaning (August 2005).

TECHNOLOGY	CLEANING CAPABILITY	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
<b>PERC</b>	Aggressive	Process easy to use	Not good for delicates
<b>Hydrocarbon</b>	Gentle	Can clean delicates Good hand* In-kind technology	Can have bacterial growth Longer cycle time
<b>Pure Dry</b>	Gentle	Can clean delicates Good hand* In-kind technology	Can have bacterial growth Longer cycle time
<b>Green Earth</b>	Gentle	Can clean delicates Very good hand* In-kind technology	Longer cycle time
<b>Glycol Ether</b>	Aggressive	Cleans water soluble and oil based soils In-kind technology	Longer cycle time Water separation difficult Distillation boil over
<b>Traditional Wet Cleaning</b>	Aggressive	Can clean delicates	Finishing more difficult Not-in-kind technology
<b>Icy Water</b>	Aggressive	Can clean delicates May not need tensioning equipment	Longer drying cycle Not-in-kind technology **
<b>Green Jet</b>	Very Gentle	Can clean delicates Less finishing	Doesn't clean well Not-in-kind technology **
<b>Carbon Dioxide</b>	Gentle	Good hands	Detergent issues Problems with acetate Expensive equipment Not-in-kind technology **

\*the feel of the fabric

\*\* Different than traditional perchloroethylene technology

Although these options are currently categorized as alternatives to Perc they may still have some hazardous characteristics to be aware of. For example:

- Green Earth has been shown to be a suspected carcinogen and the distillation still bottoms failed for aquatic toxicity for hazardous waste determination (according to the IRTA report).
- Other preliminary results listed by IRTA indicate that the still bottoms from Glycol Ether and Carbon Dioxide also failed for aquatic toxicity in a hazardous waste determination.
- The Hydrocarbon process and the Glycol Ether present volatile organic compound (VOC) concerns for air pollution (smog producing).
- Pure Dry uses a greenhouse gas (perfluorocarbon or PFC) that has been banned for many other industrial uses and although carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)

(Continued on page 9)

## 2005 Biennial Hazardous Waste Reporting Does it affect you?



By John Misleh,  
*Supervising Env. Health Specialist*

### Who needs to report?

By March 1, 2006, Large Quantity Generators (LQG) of RCRA hazardous waste must complete, sign and send their Biennial Report to the State of California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). A LQG is defined under the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, section 262.41 as a facility that:

- Generated in any single calendar month 1000 kg (2,200 lbs or 270 gallons) or more of hazardous waste identified under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste; or
- Generated in any single calendar month, or accumulated at any time, more than 1 kg (2.2 lbs.) of RCRA acutely hazardous waste; or
- Generated, in any single calendar month, or accumulated at any one time, more than 100 kg (220 lbs.) of spill cleanup material contaminated with acutely hazardous waste.

Note: Universal waste is exempted and it is not included in the report.

### Who doesn't need to report?

Generators or handlers that fall within the following categories:

- California only or Non-RCRA generators or handlers
- Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators (CESQGs)
- Small Quantity Generators (SQGs)

### What is the purpose of the report?

The purpose of the report is to give insight into hazardous waste management activities and developing trends to help measure their impact to the environment. It is also used to prepare various State reports required by the legislature. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has delegated the responsibility for collecting the Biennial Report data for California's hazardous waste Large Quantity Generators (LQGs) to the DTSC.

### Where can I find the reporting forms?

You can download the **2005 California Supplemental Instructions and Forms** and **2005 Hazardous Waste Report** booklet from <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov>. Click on the "Managing Waste" link and then on the "2005 Biennial Hazardous Waste Report" link. DTSC requests that generators who are required to do the report complete the electronic version of the report and mail it to DTSC before the March 1 deadline. Copies of the reporting materials and software for the 2005 Biennial Report were posted at DTSC's Web site on January of this year.

Note: Do not fax or e-mail completed reports. The report must be mailed to the DTSC. Faxed or e-mailed reports will not be accepted.

To validate contact information before reporting materials are distributed, DTSC sent pre-notification letters in September to facilities that are required to file the 2005 Biennial Report. If you meet the criteria for filing the 2005 Biennial Report and did not receive the pre-notification letter, please e-mail your name, company, address and phone number to [brsstaff@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:brsstaff@dtsc.ca.gov).

### How can I find more information?

Biennial Report workshops were presented in January 2006 by DTSC staff for LQGs in 2006 for Northern and Southern California. The workshops provided an explanation of Biennial Reporting requirements, demonstrate software, and answered questions regarding the Biennial Report. If you missed the workshops, you can find a copy of the presentation at DTSC's Web site.

Visit: [http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/AnnualReports/upload/HWMP\\_BiennialReport\\_slides.pdf](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/AnnualReports/upload/HWMP_BiennialReport_slides.pdf)

Additional information regarding Biennial Testing Reporting can be found at DTSC's Web site, including Frequently Asked Questions, Free Waste Reporter Software, a Report Planner, and more.

If you have further questions, call the **DTSC Biennial Report help line at (916) 322-2880**. Leave a detailed question, including your name, telephone number and facility EPA ID number.





## Underground Storage Tank (UST) Plan Check Requirements

*By Cecilia Diaz,  
Env. Health Specialist II, and  
Robert Rapista,  
Env. Health Specialist III*

The San Diego County Department of Environmental Health, Hazardous Materials Division (HMD) is the regulatory agency responsible for implementing and enforcing all applicable federal and state laws and regulations as well as local ordinances that govern the construction, installation, modification, upgrade and removal of underground storage tanks (USTs) in the county. These laws, regulations and ordinances are designed to protect public health and the environment by eliminating or reducing accidental leakage and spills from USTs storing petroleum products and other hazardous substances that can contaminate our water resources.

### What is HMD's role in protecting our water resources from hazardous substances stored in USTs?

To accomplish the mission of protecting human health and the environment, HMD's UST Program reviews permit applications and issues permits for many types of activities related to the construction, installation, modification, upgrade and removal of USTs.

Additionally, HMD's Environmental Health Specialists annually inspect all UST facilities in San Diego County to verify compliance with UST operating requirements.



### What is a UST System?

A UST system includes the tank(s), all piping (vent, vapor, and product lines), as well as associated equipment as defined by Section 25281(y) (1) of the California Health and Safety Code.

### When is a plan check permit required?

Section 68.1004 of the San Diego County Code of Regulatory Ordinances requires a permit to replace, modify, upgrade, close or remove a UST system. Work activities under the County Ordinance include, but are not limited to:

- Installation of a new UST system.
- Removal or closure in place of a UST system.
- Repair, replacement, or removal of product, vent, fill, or vapor recovery piping.
- Installation of tank collars and/or sumps.
- Installation of under dispenser containment.
- Repairs to secondary containment.
- Installation/replacement of UST monitoring system.
- Installation/replacement of electronic line leak detectors.
- Installation or repair of a corrosion protection system.

For additional information to determine if a permit is required, you may contact HMD's underground storage tank Plan Check Specialist, Robert Rapista, at 619-338-2207.



Robert Rapista reviews plans submitted for a construction permit.

### What is required to apply for a permit?

- Three complete copies of the plans and applications.
- A complete description of the scope of work.
- Applicable permit fees associated with permit fees.

Permit applications are available at HMD's Web site.

[http://www.sdcountry.ca.gov/deh/hmd/forms\\_hmd.html#ust](http://www.sdcountry.ca.gov/deh/hmd/forms_hmd.html#ust)

### Call the UST Plan Check Technician

at (619) 237-8451 if you have additional questions.

### What information must be included in the plans?

All of the following items must be included:

- Location of all existing and proposed structures.
- Location of all existing USTs and piping (indicate if to be closed or replaced).
- Location of all proposed tanks and piping.
- Cross-section of the tank and piping system(s). Drawing must show secondary containment of tank(s) and piping, spill/overflow prevention devices, leak detection equipment with the correct number of sensing probes, and extension of all pipes and ancillary equipment to finish grade.
- Location of underground utility vaults and lines.
- Site plan showing site address, nearest cross street and property lines.

To obtain additional information about plan check procedures, please call the Plan Check Technician at (619) 237-8451.

## The Hazardous Materials Division Is Going Paperless

*By Maryam Sedghi  
Env. Health Specialist II*

Historically, we have all needed paper to do our work, and we know that paper accumulates quickly. Folders and filing systems make our documents easier to find, and we even have records managers to organize, archive and retrieve our information. However, the mass of paper keeps on growing, with no end in sight. This accumulation of papers sometimes makes records difficult to find. Whether they are not in their proper folder or they are checked out many productive hours are lost just looking for records.

Throughout the country, government agencies are struggling to find some way to deal with paper documents that must be maintained to ensure institutional accountability. The cost of storing, filing, and retrieving documents continues to escalate, and simply, there is not enough space for the paper files to be stored.

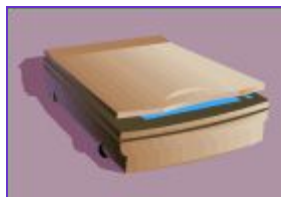


The Hazardous Materials Division (HMD) is no different than other agencies and has faced the same problem for the last several years. A couple of years ago, we initiated our quest to conquer this mountain of paper and started a systematic approach to paper management.

We started by assessing the potential benefit of imaging applications and

contacted several vendors. We evaluated different types of imaging technology, and visited several other agencies that had already gone paperless to take a close look at their data imaging process. Based on our investigations and observations, we decided to establish a document imaging and management system.

Document imaging is a process whereby sheets of paper are passed through a page scanner to produce graphic images or pictures. Imaged document files (images) can be managed as regular computer files and, with the aid of appropriate software, can be retrieved, printed, and to a limited extent, modified. The archival, indexing and retrieval aspects are often called document management. Since computer files occupy far less physical space than paper records, additional office space becomes available for more critical purposes.



Several benefits can be listed for conversion of paper files into document images:

- A secure method of distribution of documents via the Web to authorized staff or the public when appropriate.
- Management of millions of records and retrieval of the needed documents in seconds.
- Document sharing with co-workers while protecting confidential information.
- Simultaneous access to the same document by the staff and outside consultants for discussion purposes.

- Reduction of filing errors and making record retrieval faster that will ultimately save time and money.
- File retrievals based on a full-text search of any word or phrase in the document.
- Imaged documents remain in their folders when being viewed and are not lost or misplaced.
- Imaged documents can be better secured and there is more control over sensitive documents.
- Imaged documents can be backed up for offsite storage and disaster recovery.

HMD is charged with managing documents for 29,000 active and inactive facilities.

In April of 2005, HMD implemented a document imaging project for managing all documents related to the 29,000 permitted facility sites (active and inactive) regulated by HMD in the County of San Diego. Following guidelines set by the Board of Supervisors, and criteria outlined in our Records Retention Schedule, HMD's staff is now purging all files to remove records, notes, memoranda and other reports, records or documents which are no longer required to be retained. Upon completion of the purging process, documents will be prepared and ultimately scanned by a reputable vendor. The scanning portion of the project is planned to be completed by July 2006. The final step is to make all of our files available in electronic format and via the Internet on a self-serve basis. Available electronic files may be viewed, downloaded or printed. It is our goal to complete this portion of the project by July 2007, at which point all HMD files will be available for public review online.

## Tier II Reporting in San Diego County

By Aura Quecan  
Environmental Health Specialist II



In 1984, a chemical release of methyl isocyanate increased public concerns about the use of hazardous materials in industry. The chemical release from the Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, India, killed or injured more than 2,000 people. Many more people have been subjected to chronic injuries from this release. This tragic incident led to an increased awareness of hazardous materials and the passage of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) in 1986. This article provides a brief overview of EPCRA and informs local industry about how to comply with EPCRA Tier II Reporting in San Diego County.

EPCRA establishes requirements for Federal, State and local governments as well as industry, regarding emergency planning and "Community-Right-to-Know" for hazardous chemicals. The Act assists both government and communities in identifying toxic chemicals and chemical releases. The Act was enacted to address environmental and safety hazards posed by the storage and handling of toxic chemicals. EPCRA requires industry to disclose chemical storage and use including chemical releases. It also requires local government to develop emergency response plans incorporating information provided by industry.

The act has two requirements which affect businesses:

- I. Businesses must notify releases of chemicals into the environment; the notification for certain chemicals is then published in the Toxic Release Inventory, and
- II. Businesses must notify state and local agencies of the quantities and type of toxic chemicals stored.

Businesses that do not comply with

EPCRA may be subject to civil penalties and be required to cover costs of litigation and/or environmental remediation actions.

EPCRA has four provisions important to businesses:

**Hazardous Chemical Storage Reporting Requirements:** Covered facilities submit annually an emergency and hazardous chemical inventory form. Covered facilities include facilities that produce, use, or store hazardous chemicals at or above 10,000 pounds, have extremely hazardous substances above 500 pounds or above a defined Threshold Planning Quantity (TPQ) (whichever is less), or have had in the last calendar year chemicals at or above TPQs.

**Emergency Planning:** The emergency planning section of the law is designed to help communities prepare for and respond to emergencies involving hazardous substances. Every community in the United States must be part of a comprehensive plan. Plans are based on information provided in reports from covered facilities. In San Diego County, the Hazardous Incident Response Team (HIRT) is an integral part of plan. Formed by members of the County of San Diego Environmental Health and the San Diego Fire Department-Rescue Department, the team is a model in the nation. The information provided by businesses allows HIRT to respond efficiently to chemical emergencies and protect human health and the environment.

**Emergency release notification:** Facilities must immediately notify the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and the State Emergency response Commission (SERC) if there is a release into the environment of a hazardous substance that is equal to or exceeds the minimum reportable quantity set in the regulations. This requirement covers the 356 extremely hazardous substances as well as the more than 700 hazardous substances subject to the emergency notification requirements under CERCLA Section 103 (a)(40 CFR 302.4).

Some chemicals are common to both lists. Initial notification can be made by telephone, radio, or in person. Emergency notification requirements involving transportation incidents can be met by dialing 911, or in the absence of a 911 emergency number, by calling the operator. In California, any release or threatened release requires reporting. For more information on spill reporting visit the Office of Emergency Services (OES) Web Site at <http://www.oes.ca.gov>.

**Toxic Release Reporting:** Facilities that have 10 or more employees, or that are classified in a covered Standard Industrial Classification Code, and that manufacture, process, or "otherwise use" a listed toxic chemical above threshold amounts must prepare and submit an annual Toxic Release Inventory Report to the Environmental Protection Agency by July 1st of every year. More information on EPCRA can be found at: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/oswer/CeppoWeb.nsf/content/index.html>

How must the businesses in San Diego County comply with EPCRA Tier II reporting?

The California Health and Safety Code, in order to avoid multiple reports to the SERC, LEPC, Fire Departments and the Administering Agency, requires businesses to provide to the Administering Agency an inventory of their chemicals as part of the Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP). The Administering Agency in San Diego County is the Hazardous Materials Division (HMD) of the Department of Environmental Health. The business must provide inventory information if it uses, handles or stores hazardous materials or wastes in quantities equal to or greater than:

- 55 gallons of a liquid
- 500 pounds of a solid substance
- 200 cubic feet of a compressed gas
- A toxic compressed gas in any amount if the Threshold Limit Value is less than 10 parts per million
- Extremely hazardous substances in quantities equal to or greater than the Threshold Planning Quantities

(continued on page 7)



## Tier II Reporting

(continued from page 6)

The Health and Safety Code (HSC) also requires that businesses report inventory to the Administering agency on the Unified Program Consolidated forms or equivalent forms from the local Administering Agency. The Business Owner/Operator Identification page (OES 2730) corresponds to local form HM-9702 and the Hazardous Materials Inventory/Chemical description page (OES 2731) corresponds to local form HM-9703. Forms must be completed and submitted initially with a complete inventory. Both forms must be submitted with inventory updates as they occur. Updates are required for:

One hundred percent or more increase in the quantity of a previously disclosed material;

Any handling of previous undisclosed hazardous materials subject to the inventory requirements, and  
Deleting a previously disclosed material.

The business must annually certify to the HMD that the HMBP is current and maintained onsite. If no changes have occurred, the business must send an annual certification indicating that HMBP is current and complete. If there were changes in the HMBP, business must make the changes and submit them with a certification indicating that the HMBP has been reviewed.

Businesses complying with reporting requirements of the Health and Safety Code may be subject to Tier II reporting per Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations if the threshold amount of chemicals used reach EPCRA notification requirements. In the State of California, the business is in compliance with EPCRA Tier II reporting requirements if the business has a current permit from the Administering Agency, notifies the Department changes in its inventory using the forms 2730 and 2731, and on annual basis certifies that its inventory is current. In San Diego County, the Administering Agency is the Department of Environmental

Health-HMD and the local permit for hazardous materials is a Unified Program Facility permit. Businesses can find the Consolidated Facility forms at HMD's Web site.

## Mike Vizzier

(continued from page 1)

Mike played football at Huntsville High School and he was even offered a scholarship to play in college. He weighed all his options, and from all the college offers Mike liked the Navy and Air Force the best. They would pay him to go to college; he did not have to play football to keep the scholarship and everyone was going to Vietnam anyway, so why not put that off for four years? For Mike, Navy was the obvious choice.

Mike really applied himself and he went from being a student whose motto was *"anything above a 2.0 GPA is wasted nap time"* to the Dean's list. As a midshipman, Mike spent his summer learning about his future trade and found out that ships spent more than three months at a time at sea. This seemed about as desirable as the Confederate Ball, so he joined the Marine Corps and attended Officer's Basic School. Mike then went to flight school in Pensacola, Florida. He was sent to Japan, the Philippines, Korea, Australia, Thailand and Hong Kong. Flying with a dozen planes refueling in-flight with overnight stops in Hawaii, Guam and Wake Island was always an adventure.

Being the Marine Corps liaison officer at Nuclear Weapons Training Group-Atlantic, in Norfolk, VA, Mike spent three years teaching in the U. S. and Europe. Then, one summer day in August, during some war games in the Mojave Desert, Mike received a call asking if he would like to be transferred to NAS North Island to work as an aircraft program officer for the Naval Air Forces Pacific Fleet. He was faced with another one of those difficult decisions in life, to work in a tent in desert or to work in an office in Coronado?

A few years later Mike retired from the military and started thinking about what to do next. His wife liked her job as a teacher in Imperial Beach and they both loved living in Coronado. At the time, Mike already had a BS degree in Oceanography, a MS degree in Systems Management, and 20 years experience in aerospace safety and maintenance. It was 1992 and the aerospace industry was leaving San Diego. Mike did not want to leave San Diego, so for awhile, he went to the private sector in aircraft programs management at North Island.

While considering what to do next, he looked into the hazardous materials field. He found out that the best place to learn the hazardous material business locally was with County Environmental Health. He mailed in an application but the County was not hiring; so while he waited he went back to school and obtained his certificate in Hazardous Materials Management from UCSD.

Mike was finally hired by the Hazardous Materials Division (HMD) in 1995. He started inspecting small medical offices as an Environmental Health Specialist I and went up the ranks to his present position as a supervisor. Mike is also HMD's technical lead for the medical waste program. He participates in a variety of workgroups in the County and the state. Learning is a way of life for Mike. He is an avid learner and a generous teacher for peers and the regulated community. He particularly enjoys teaching advanced hazardous waste inspector training at the annual California CUPA conference.

Mike enjoys cooking and eating, so he has to spend a lot of time at the gym. He and his wife enjoy the local theater and sporting events. Attending all of these different schools left him with athletic programs to support. The MS degree from the University of Southern California is particularly pertinent on Saturday afternoons in the fall. He does not go skiing nearly enough and most of all he enjoys spending time with old friends.



*By Veronica Garmo  
Environmental Health Specialist II*

The Christmas Train is a massive volunteer non-profit group who delivers donated goods to thousands of children in Tecate in a single afternoon. Like its mission statement indicates, the Christmas Train handiwork is "Uniting two nations through cultural events for children." The event takes place every year on the Mexican Holiday known as The Day of the Three Kings.

The County of San Diego, Department of Environmental Health (DEH) has been a supporter of the Christmas Train since 1999 and every year our participation has grown. Visiting Tecate on January 6 every year has become a DEH tradition. For most of us that participate, this event gives us a chance to put a smile on a child's face.

Many of these children are very poor and often don't have their basic needs met, living in shacks with no running water or plumbing. In school, they may lack paper or writing utensils; some of them go to bed hungry because there is no food to eat. Due to their precarious living conditions, these gifts may be the only ones these children receive during the holiday season. Their reality is very different than ours and it is difficult for many of us to comprehend as we live such charmed lives of abundance in the United States. We are so happy to be in a position to give something back.

This event brings out the generous side of our staff and their families, including one of the daughters of our staff who used her tooth fairy money to buy notebooks to donate. All donations are appreciated. We have received from collections of rolled pennies to large checks. The wonderful thing is that ALL donations and every penny collected go directly to making sure the bags that are distributed to the children in the Day of the Three Kings are stuffed full with goodies.

How does this large conglomerate of volunteers work? The logistics are not easy, but there is so much enthusiasm that great things are accomplished. Items, money, time and storage space are donated throughout the year. The Hazardous Materials Division, in conjunction with the rest of DEH, has always supported education through our many outreach activities. It is only appropriate that we focus our energies to make sure every child receives some basic tools for learning. Last year our staff donated over 4,000 notebooks and 4,000 pencils, 1,000 baby blankets and many other items. This year our staff donated over 6,000 notebooks and 6,000 pencils, over 1,000 blankets and many other items as we were still collecting donations throughout the holiday season.

In 1998, the first year of this event, 2,300 children received gift bags. In 2005, over 6,000 children received gift bags. This year we reached even more children. We also prepare special care packages for some of the local orphanages. We try to reach all of the children in Tecate and make this day special for them.

The goal is for each child to receive a gift bag with every day items that we take for granted here: a toy, a

toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, a notebook, a pen, a pencil, a ruler, crayons, a coloring book and some fruit and candy. Baby bags include items like a bottle, blanket, hat, booties, mittens and other warm items. The items that go into the bags depend ultimately on what goods are donated and the money collected to purchase other items.

During the first week of the New Year, staff from different organizations gather in a warehouse to stuff bags. It takes about five evenings of bag packing to get ready for the big event. DEH is tasked with supplying the volunteers for one of the evenings. After already having worked a full day at the office, staff and their families show up at the warehouse to pack the bags. It is a family affair.

Then, in early January, on the Sunday closest to the "Day of the Three Kings", which is celebrated on January 6 in Mexico, a train loaded with thousands of gift bags and hundreds of volunteers rolls into Tecate. The train and its services are donated by the San Diego Railway. The Mayor of Tecate and the Departments of Police and Social Services are on hand to welcome us. The mayor of Tecate says, "This is the most important event of the year for Tecate's children."

This year, this worthwhile cause received a very special recognition. The Christmas Train was recognized with the nation's highest civilian honor, the George Washington Medal awarded by the Freedom Foundation. If you are interested in learning more, volunteering, or making a tax-deductible donation to the Christmas Train, please visit [www.christmastrain.org](http://www.christmastrain.org)





## P2 in the Textile Cleaning Industry

(continued from page 2)

is also a greenhouse gas, the CO<sub>2</sub> cleaning process is closed loop and actually takes CO<sub>2</sub> generated by other industries to use for the process thereby preventing CO<sub>2</sub> from entering the atmosphere.

If a cleaner chooses to use a Spot Remover, many still contain Perc. This spot cleaning Perc can contaminate the cleaning medium through the entire cleaning process, potentially causing the generation of hazardous waste, even for the Icy Wa-

ter, Green Jet and Wet Cleaning processes that are typically the least toxic of the alternatives.

In all these textile cleaning options, you, the consumer still drive the market. As an environmentally friendly consumer you can make the decision as to where your clothes go for cleaning.

✦ Next time you visit your regular cleaner, find out what they are using. If they are still using Perc, advise them of the availability of safer alternatives and the potential for grants to assist with their change to a safer technology.

✦ Choose a cleaner using a safer

alternative to Perc.

✦ Learn to live with a few spots and let your safer alternative cleaner know about NOT choosing a Perc containing spot remover.

✦ You can also purchase clothes that do not require dry cleaning!

The IRTA report should be available soon on the DTSC's Web site: [www.dtsc.ca.gov/PollutionPrevention](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/PollutionPrevention) Use the Search for "This site" and enter IRTA.



### Hazardous Waste Biennial Reports are due on March 1, 2006

#### USEFUL HMD PHONE NUMBERS

Hazardous Materials  
Duty Desk  
**619-338-2231**

Hazardous Materials  
Business Plan Check  
**619-338-2232**

HMD Permitting Section  
**619-338-2251**

General Underground Storage  
Tank (UST) Permitting Info.  
**619-237-8451**

UST Appointment Scheduling  
**619-338-2214**

UST Plan Check  
**619-338-2207**

#### HMD SUPERVISORS

**Matt Trainor**  
Supervising EHS  
Operations/Permits

**Ron Yonemitsu**  
Senior Health  
Physicist

**Sylvia Mosse**  
Supervising EHS  
UST Program

**Ed Slater**  
Supervising EHS  
North County

**Michael Dorsey**  
HMD Chief

**John Misleh**  
Supervising EHS  
East County

**John Kolb**  
Supervising EHS  
South County

**Nick Vent**  
Supervising EHS  
Emergency Response

**Mike Vizzier**  
Supervising EHS  
Central County

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<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/deh/hmd/newsletter.html>

Please send your comments about this newsletter and suggestions for upcoming articles to the editor at  
[Gloria.Estolano@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Gloria.Estolano@sdcounty.ca.gov)

The Hazardous Materials Division of the Department of Environmental Health was recognized by the California Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) Forum Board as the Outstanding Certified Program Agency for 2005 at the 8th Annual Certified Unified Program Training Conference.

Criteria for the award included environmental compliance, continuous improvement, excellence and leadership, protection of the environment, protection of public health and safety, and environmental education.

## The San Diego County CUPA receives prestigious Environmental Leadership Award



Environmental Health Specialists from the Hazardous Materials Division receive the Environmental Leadership Award at the 8th Annual CUPA Training Conference.

### HMD RECOGNIZED FOR OUTREACH AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

HMD was recognized at the 2005 Industrial Environmental Association and California Manufacturer's & Technology Association Conference and Exposition held last December in San Diego.

HMD received the Public Agency Award, which recognized Michael Dorsey, Chief of the Hazardous Materials Division, for his "Commitment to Pollution Prevention and Business Outreach Initiatives."

The Negocio Verde Task Force, where HMD is an active participant, was recognized with the Environmental Responsibility Award. The Negocio Verde Task Force is a multi-organization effort that promotes pollution prevention in the environmental justice community of the County of San Diego. It focuses on the needs of the small minority-owned businesses and provides training materials in Spanish and English. The agencies in the Task force are USEPA, Region 9, Cuyamaca Community College, the San Diego County Hazardous Materials Division and Air Pollution Control District, the City of National City and Southwestern Community College.

### HMD'S OUTREACH CORNER

Recently Completed Training for Industry



December 15, 2005: "Third Plating Shop Compliance Workshop" presented at the 2005 Industrial Association and California Manufacturer's Technology association Conference.

Upcoming Presentations and Training

April 20, 2006: "Significant Violations in Research & Development and Biotechnology Labs."

May 17, 2006: "How to Eliminate the Top 10 Violations in Research & Development and Biotechnology Labs."

Presentations are part of HMD's "Compliance Through Education" project. CalEPA selected HMD to conduct this project under its "Environmental Protection Indicators for California" (EPIC) program. The project looks at reducing the top 10 most common violations in biotechnology, biomedical and research labs. Time and location to be determined. For information and to RSVP, please call Mike Vizzier at 858-495-5672.

*The Negocio Verde Task Force presents the "Multi-Media Pollution Prevention and Compliance Assistance Training for the Automotive Industry"*

May 20, 2006: 1:00pm to 3:30 pm at the Martin Luther King Community Center; 140 E. 12th St., National City, CA 91950.

June 17, 2006: 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm at the Lemon Grove Community Center; 3146 School Lane, Lemon Grove, CA 91945.

For additional information and to RSVP, please call HMD's Pollution Prevention Specialist, Ellen Schulte, at 619-338-2324.